(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the preventive measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government keeps a constant watch on developments which have a bearing on India's security and is taking all appropriate steps to safeguard the security of the country.

Scrapping the Bidding Process for Joint Ventures in Oil

891. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minsiter of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to scrap the bidding process for joint ventures in oil and propose to opt for another method;

(b) if so, the details of the new system method Government propose to opt;

(c) whether the oil reserves and production is falling steeply; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) and (d) The decline in crude production was arrested in 1992-93 and the production of crude has increased since then. In order to improve the rate of reserve accretion in the currrent plan, Government have approved an Accelerated Programe for Exploration at an estimated cost of Rs. 6500 crores.

Indian Protest Against Executions in Nigeria

892. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recent executions in Nigeria of a number of well-known human rights activists;

(b) whether any formal protest about these executions have been posted with Nigerian authorities on India's behalf; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to withdraw our representation in Nigera in view of these developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India is a party to the Queenstown Declaration of the Commonwealth Heads of Government of November 11, 1995 suspending Nigeria from the Commonwealth.

(c) No, Sir.

Import of Petroleum Products

893. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of petroleum and petroleum products proposed to be imported during 1995-96;

(b) the total outlay of foreign excchange on account of such imports;

(c) the agencies under the auspices of which these imports have been and are being undertaken; and

(d) whether, in the finalisation of the import arrangements, these agencies have been recipients of commissions or have been called upon to pay commissions to agencies overseas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The quantity and value of crude and petroleum products to be imported during the current year (1995-96) would depend on international prices, indigenous crude production, materialisation of the refining capacity and actual materialisation of demand.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation is the designated canalising agency for import/ export of crude oil and petroleum products.

(d) No commission is involved in the import arrangements made by Indian Oil Corpporation Limited.

Indian Efforts to become a Member of Security Council

894. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minsiter of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last concluded UN Session the question of expansion and enlargement of Members of Security Council was discussed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian delegation had solicited support of some friendly countries for becoming member of the Security Council; and

(d) if so, the decision taken at the Session and also the outcome of opinion sought by the country for becoming Council Member thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A large number of countries made statements on restructuring of the Security Council. India expressed willingness to serve as permanent member of the Security Council. Mauritious, Bhutan, Dominican Republic and Cuba specifically supported India's inclusion in permanent members' category of the Security Council. Several others supported a broad-based expansion which would include developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America as permanent members. The Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Special Commemorative meeting of the Heads of State/ Government to mark the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations called for further indepth consideration of Security Council restructuring since important differences on key issues continue to exist.

Ban Impsoed on Indian Vessels by Sri Lanka

895. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lankan authorities have imposed a ban on the entry of sailing vessels of less than 1600 tonnes capacity into the harbour at Colombo Port;

(b) if so, whether it has adversely affected Indian Trade with that country as Indian sailing boats operating in the region are of far less capacity;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from cargo vessel owners of Tuticorin in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka and to lift the ban imposed on Indian vessels with results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sri Lankan Government have imposed ban on the entry of sailing vessels, with wooden hulls and of a gross tonnage of 1,600 or less into Colombo Port from 26.4.95.

(c) and (d) The National Boatmen's Union, Coastal Sail Vessel Owner's Association have brought to the notice of